THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN

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WHILE IT IS THE FULL INTENTION OF THE EDITORS TO ALLOW THE LARGEST LIBERTY TO CONTRIBU-TORS, IT MUST BE DISTINCTLY UNDERSTOOD THAT WE DO NOT THEREBY ENDORSE THEIR OPINIONS, OR ARE IN ANY SENSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEM.

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TRANSPENT NOTICES, FIFTY CENTS FOR EIGHT LINES, EACH INSERTION. FOR LARGER SPACE AND PER-MANENT RATES, APPLY AS ABOVE.

The Township Year.

The work of the Township Committee for the present year is virtually completed. It is for the voters to cast the balance, and decide upon its value. The proverb says: "Charity begins at home;" but discriminating criticism should begin there also. Donatello showed his appreciation of the judgment of his fellow-citizens, when he said, writing from Padua: "If I remain in this place the praise I hear will cause me to forget every thing I know. In Florence on the contrary, the incessant criticism of my compatriots force me continually to make new efforts and thereby bring me constantly new glories." Offices are not created primarily for the individual but for the public; and under existing circumstances, no one is likely to suffer from excessive praise. For the advancement of the public interests, proper discrimina tion in judgment is invaluable.

Much work of value has been completed the past year. About \$2000 worth of stone sidewalks have been laid; half of whose cost has been paid by the township. About 2000 feet of stone road has been completed; and large amounts of gravel placed upon side streets.

Except in spots where the bottom' has been reached, the stone road holds its own well; care will however have to be exercised in the future to avoid removing the hard surface before laying the pavement. The gravel has not been as cheap as before nor as good. It, however, serves a good purpose where stone would be to expensive and the bottom too soft for its use.

Thirty-four new gas lamps have been erected in various parts of the village. These lamps were much needed and appreciated. It is however, well to rememthat enterprise may be overdone. Within two years, the number of lamps has has increased from 232 to 294, or more than 25 per cent. At \$13.50 per lamp, the cost of lighting will amount to a trifle less than \$4000. Petitions have been presented for new lamps to be erected the coming year; while some have suggested that they be lighted longer hours-. It is for the tax payers to say whether these requests shall be granted. There are already many more lamps than in the neighboring town of Montclair, while an addition of even an hour to the time of lighting will add two dollars per lamp to the expense.

The Township has a small debt of \$1350. which should be paid at once, from back taxes. The practice of using these taxes to increase appropriations while a debt remains, is entirly wrong, and should be stopped. Enough money has been recieved the past year from this source to have cancelled the debt.

The extension of the macadamized road to Belleville Avenue, calls attention to the nelected condition of parks in this vicinity. At a trifling cost a grade might be established, and both the school-house grounds, and the angle north of Belleville Avenue made an ornament to the village.

The appropriations for sidewalks, crosswalks, and macadamized roads should be as liberal as the township can afford. While the thickly-settled portion of the village is benefited most largely by the gas and water, these appropriations can be used to secure substantial justice to the suburbs. No one will complain if the most money is spent where the largest taxes are paid; but all will receive benefit from good roads, sidewalks and crosswalks.

The substantial improvements in the sidewalks near the Centre reflect high praise both upon the present Township Committee and the property owners who have met their efforts half-way. None of the anticipated disasters to the fire companies have resulted from their organization under the town authorities. On the contrary, they are in better condition than ever; and will enter the new year with less discussion than in the

It is a good plan to help those who have learned to help themselves.

Every department of the village will be found on examination to be in good condition. It will, however, do no damage to watch closely, judge fairly, and vote intelligently.

The Legislature.

The Legislature for 1886 began its sessions on Tuesday of this week. The Republicans are in control in both branches, having a majority of five in the Senate, and of two in the House. The Senate organized by the election of Mr. Griggs of Passaic, as President. The contest between Reading of Hunterdon, and Honeyman ol Somerset, for the position of Secretary was decided by the choice of the former as Secretary, and Honeyman was made Assistant Secretary. The election of Griggs will be likely to give very general satisfaction. He was the caucus nominee in 1885 but was defeated by a combination of the Democrats with two bolting Republicans and Schenck of Middlesex was chosen.

Mr. Griggs represented the city of Paterson in the Assembly for two years, and is just entering the fourth year of service in the Senate. He is an able and honorable man, who has done much to aid useful legislation in the past, and has fully earned the high office he has now been chosen to fill.

In the Assembly Mr. Armstrong, of Camden has again been chosen Speaker. Mr. Corbin, of Union received eleven votes, but, as usual, the gentleman from Camden had sixteen, the exact number

Ii is claimed that the hand of Senator Sewell can be seen in this result, but it must be remembered that Armstrong proved himself to be a most excellent presiding officer last year and was fairly entitled to a second term.

The election of Mr. Armstrong renders it almost certain that the committees of Apples and Potatoes by the barrel. the House will be made up much as they were last year. This will be an advan- L. DAWKINS. tage in most instances for the old members who are familiar with the committee work will be able to expedite business and so contribute to shorten the session of the Legislature.

It has usually taken about three weeks for the members to settle down to active work and, though many bills have been introduced, nothing of importance is likely to be considered before February.

The most important matter so far as the State at large is concerned is the rebuilding of the burned portion of the State House. All idea of removing the Capital to Newark seems to be abandoned and it is earnestly to be desired that the structure to be erected shall furnish ample accomodations for the public officers for many years to come.

New Jersey is practically out of debt and can offord to spend a liberal sum on the State House, if the expenditure be wisely made. A mean parsimony would be almost as injurious in the long run as

We presume there will be the usual batch of temperance bills introduced, and it will be a relief to both parties if something definite may be done to settle this vexed question.

If this question were disposed of a good many hobby riders would find themselves unhorsed, but they would probably hasten to find a new mount and could then be as mischievous as ever.

The narrow majority in the Assembly will be a check upon hasty Legislation while the large majority in the Senate will restrain Governor Abbett's violent partisanship.

Taking all things together we think much good can and should result from the present Legislative session.

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